

NATIONAL TOXICOLOGY PROGRAM SPECIAL EMPHASIS PANEL

MEMBERSHIP BALANCE PLAN

1. NAME

The National Toxicology Program Special Emphasis Panel (SEP).

2. AUTHORITY

Authorized by 42 U.S.C. 217a; section 222 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended. The National Toxicology Program Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) is governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. app.), which sets forth standards for the formation and use of advisory committees.

3. MISSION/FUNCTION

The SEP will provide independent scientific peer review and conduct objective and scientifically rigorous evaluations through the formation and use of individual panels that will provide opinions and recommendations that include, but are not limited to, the strength of the scientific evidence that exposure to an agent is a hazard for human health, the adequacy of new/revised toxicological test methods relative to current toxicological tests for assessing specific toxicities, or the validation status of test methods. The SEP is authorized by statute.

4. POINTS OF VIEW

The National Toxicology Program Special Emphasis Panel is a discretionary Federal Advisory Committee. Members and Chairs will be selected on an "as needed" basis in response to specific issues or areas to be considered. Members will be selected from outstanding authorities knowledgeable in the various scientific disciplines pertinent to the specific issues or areas being considered. All non-Federal members serve as Peer Review Consultants.

5. OTHER BALANCE FACTORS

Close attention is given to equitable geographic distribution and to racial, ethnic and gender representation so long as the effectiveness of the SEP is not impaired. Appointments will be made without discrimination on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, cultural, religious, or socioeconomic status.

6. CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

The nomination of members is a major professional responsibility of each advisory committee's manager. The selection process involves long-range planning, and obtaining suggestions and information from many different sources. NTP staff use numerous resources to select suitable nominees for membership, such as:

- a. personal knowledge of both the required discipline and the scientists who are making significant research contributions to the field;
- b. review of applicant and grantee files as well as curriculum vitae and publications of investigators;
- c. review of enterprise-wide database systems and other databases for potential nominees with specific expertise;

- d. of major scientific journals and publications in the field;
- e. attendance at relevant professional meetings, these meetings provide a valuable method of keeping informed of significant new studies in the field and of identifying the investigators who are doing the type of research needed; gaining knowledge of the interests and expertise of possible future members and consulting with eminent investigators who may be potential members;
- f. observance of investigators who serve as ad hoc consultants or temporary members at regular scientific and technical peer review committee meetings, and participants on project site visit teams; or those who have provided written collateral opinions on request;
- g. solicitation of names of outstanding investigators from former and current committee members and other leaders in the field;
- h. consultation with scientific and professional staff of the various HHS and operating division offices;
- i. observation of applications reviewed by other agencies, especially those having review panels in related disciplines;
- j. review of membership rosters of pertinent professional societies; and
- k. self-nomination from qualified individuals.

Members will be invited to serve on an as needed basis.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE BALANCE

No subcommittees will be formed under this SEP.

8. OTHER

No additional information.

9. DATE PREPARED

November 29, 2016